



## California Department of Health Services

### Registered Environmental Health Specialist Program (REHS)

#### UPDATE DECEMBER 2005

---

1. Continuing Education - proposed regulations will be submitted to the Office of Regulations by DHS (perhaps December 2005) and this process will take at least one year. The public comment period is expected to open approximately 7-8 months following submittal. The Environmental Health Specialist Registration Committee, CEHA and CCDEH are in support of this proposal.

2. Personnel Changes - Deann Kanenaga, who served the program so very well for many years, has accepted a promotion and is now working for the California Department of Veteran Affairs; we wish her well. We are pleased to announce that Cynthia Cotton has joined the REHS Program as our new office technician and is quickly learning the all the ins and outs. She can be reached at (916) 449-5662. Dr. Mark Horton, previous Health Officer of Orange County, has been appointed as the new State Health Officer. Dave Spath, Division Chief, Drinking Water and Environmental Management, retired October 31, 2005; Rufus Howell, REHS is the acting Division Chief.

3. Web Site - The web page got a face-lift and with it a number of links were disconnected. We are working with the Information Technology staff to correct and update the web site information; however as of this writing the PowerPoint presentations are not connected.

4. University Reviews - To date four of the five approved environmental health university programs have been reviewed.

California State University, Northridge - Approved

California State University, San Bernardino - Approved

Loma Linda University- Approved

California State University, Fresno - Final Review

UCLA is planned for review in Spring 2006

Additionally, we have been in discussions regarding program development at California State University, Los Angeles; California State University, San Diego; California State University, San Jose; California State University,

Channel Islands; California State University, East Bay (Hayward); and San Francisco City College.

5. Recruitment - DHS has a database of all certifiable REHS applicants since July 2004. These applicants have received their certification letter and are eligible to work as trainees. We will provide their mailing labels sorted by zip code or alphabetical for a fee of \$50. Currently we have 776 in this database.

6. Listing of active REHSs - We have posted the names, REHS # and expiration date for all current and active REHSs on the program web site. The list will be revised at the end of December and reposted in February 2006 to reflect the 2005 renewals.

7. Environmental Health Specialist Registration Committee (EHSRC) - The purpose of the EHSRC is to advise and make recommendations to the Department of Health Services regarding the proper administration and enforcement of the registration act.

- Meets annually at the CEHA Annual Education Symposium the day prior to the conference and again in the fall.
- Subcommittee work includes:
  - Review and approval of environmental health University programs
  - Review of County Training Plans
  - Continuing Education development
  - Evaluation of current curriculum requirements

8. Training Coordinator meetings are facilitated by DHS two or three times a year. Currently the group is developing a comprehensive outline of the information needed by a new REHS. The Food and Consumer Protection program was the first area to be developed. The process involves using the knowledge and skill statements developed during the job analysis as a starting point and expanding on them until a complete description of the program responsibilities emerges.

9. REHS Program Web Page - We encourage you to visit the REHS program web page at:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/environmental/rehs/rehs.htm>.